

**Minutes of the 823rd meeting of Toft Parish Council
Held on Monday 3 March 2025 in The People's Hall, Toft at 7.00 pm**

Present: Councillors: M Yeadon (Chairman), E Darbyshire, B Harris, G Harrison (from item 3), E Miles, S Tebbit and C Watson.

In attendance: 3 members of the public and Mrs A Griffiths (Minutes Secretary, LGS Services)

Public participation on agenda items and matters of mutual interest (includes reports from County and District Councillors and representation by members of the public)

A resident reported that the efforts to clear the drains near Beldams Close last week had been unsuccessful, possibly indicating a blockage further on, and asked that the bus stop area be swept. The Chairman explained that pavements were CCC's responsibility, but that he might try to sweep it over the next few days.

Another resident commented that the Snicket was slippery and mossy, despite being reported. The Chairman will try to rake the path this week.

1. Apologies for absence and declaration of interests

1.1 To approve written apologies and reasons for absence

None.

1.2 To receive declarations of interests from councillors on items on the agenda

None.

1.3 To receive written requests for dispensations and to grant any dispensations

None.

2. To approve the minutes of the last meeting on 3 February 2025

RESOLVED that the minutes of 3 February 2025 be approved as a true record and signed by the Chairman, after an amendment under item 7.4 to change "had now fallen" to "was now overhanging the path." (Prop MY, 2nd EM, unanimous)

3. Co-option to fill casual vacancy – to consider any applications received

One application had been received and another had been emailed but not received at the time of the meeting.

RESOLVED to co-opt Giles Harrison as a member of the Parish Council. (Prop MY, 2nd EM, unanimous)

Cllr Harrison signed the declaration of acceptance of office before taking his seat.

4. To consider any matters arising from the last or a previous meeting including

4.1 (Open) 20 mph limit application

Cllr Darbyshire reported that she had re-submitted the application for a village-wide 20 mph limit, with slight amendments from last year. No feedback had been received as to why the application had previously been turned down. It was hoped to hear the outcome around October.

4.2 (3.0.1) Toft People's Hall – to consider response about ownership query

Cllr Tebbit reported on the ownership of the People's Hall, which is owned by the Parish Council on a charitable basis. The responsibilities of the Management Committee are to be clarified.

4.3 (4.3) Finding Fitness Ltd – report on discussions

Cllr Watson reported that she had spoken to the organisers who can act as facilitators with the Lottery Fund for obtaining equipment free of charge, subject to evidence that the village wants the equipment being provided.

RESOLVED that Cllr Watson should place information on Facebook to seek support from residents, who should email Cllrs Yeadon or herself with their views. Cllr Darbyshire will also place the information on the website.

4.4 (5.2) Hedge cutting at play area and behind bus stop

It was noted that the contract for had been awarded to MD Landscapes for £430.00. It was noted that the works had not yet taken place so and care would need to be taken not to disturb any nests.

- 4.5 (5.2) Overhanging vegetation and brambles behind bus stop
Taken under 4.4
- 5. To consider correspondence received since the last meeting requiring the Council's attention**
- 5.1 CCC planning Local Validation List consultation (deadline 10 March)
RESOLVED to make no response.
- 5.2 South Cambridgeshire Community Policing meetings
RESOLVED that Cllr Tebbit be appointed to attend the quarterly meetings.
- 5.3 Parish Forum Survey 2025
RESOLVED that the Chairman should respond to the survey.
RESOLVED that Cllr Harrison be appointed to attend the meetings as the Parish Council's representative. (Prop MY, 2nd CW, unanimous)
- 5.4 Letter from young resident – Toft Football Team
The Chairman reported on a letter he had received from a young resident who wished to start a Toft football team and was seeking the use of a field and sponsorship for kit, etc. It was noted that the field was private land and that there were goals on the Recreation Ground.
RESOLVED that the Chairman should speak to the resident to discuss the request.
- 6. Finance, Procedure and risk assessment and use of delegated powers**
- 6.1 To consider the finance report and approve the payment of any bills
RESOLVED to receive the financial report and check the invoices and bank statements before the payments were approved. (Prop MY, 2nd EM, unanimous)
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|--------------------|-------------------|---------|
| Salaries | | £326.33 |
| Toft People's Hall | Room hire Jan | £15.00 |
| Toft People's Hall | Room hire May 24 | £15.00 |
| LGS Services | Admin support Feb | £518.78 |
- A VAT reclaim was noted.
- 6.2 To receive play inspection reports and consider any work required
Cllr Watson reported that weeding and general maintenance would be required after the winter.
- 6.3 To consider any matter which is urgent because of risk or health and safety and relates to Council property
None.
- 6.4 To consider whether to conduct a tree survey
RESOLVED to seek quotations from tree surgeons for carrying out a survey of the trees on the Recreation Ground.
- 7. To consider any Planning or Tree works applications or related items received**
- 7.1 Planning applications received – to be considered
- 7.1.1 25/00512/FUL – Cambridgeshire County Council Social Services building, Comberton Road – External alterations include raising of the front roof, creation of new roof over current garage structure and general fenestration improvements to an existing building to convert into 4 no. dwellings
RESOLVED to make no response.
- 7.2 Planning applications for which a response has been made between meetings using delegated powers – to be noted
None.
- 7.3 SCDC planning decision notices and appeal notifications and applications for information only

None.

7.4 Tree works applications

None.

8. Members items and reports for information only unless otherwise stated

8.1 Village Maintenance

Cllr Harris reported that she needed to meet the grass cutting contractor.

Cllr Yeadon will try to clear the moss at the Snicket.

8.2 Highways

Potholes and blocked drains had been reported to CCC by Cllr Darbyshire.

Cllr Watson raised the verges outside the Church, which had been churned up by the parking of vehicles, and asked whether the Parish Council could do anything.

RESOLVED to note that this had been investigated before and it had not proved possible to install a surface for parking in the location, which was on CCC land, due to concerns about tree roots and the prohibitive expense.

8.3 Toft People's Hall

Cllr Watson reported that the next meeting was next Tuesday. A new secretary had been appointed. A committee was being formed to work on the proposals for the alterations. A survey had been circulated seeking views about children's events.

8.4 Footpaths

Cllr Miles had reported the fallen tree and the overhanging trees in Toft Wood.

RESOLVED that Cllr Miles should place an article in the Calendar to inform residents about the Conservation Area, its location, and what can or cannot be done.

8.5 Defibrillator report

Cllr Watson reported that the equipment was in working order and had not been used.

8.6 Birdlings liaison

A resident of the Birdlings provided feedback from residents including a request for better footpaths between the villages, and more footpaths for walkers. In response to a request, Cllr Yeadon undertook to forward the East West Rail response so that it could be placed on the Birdlings WhatsApp group. It was noted that there would be another statutory consultation. The proposal from CCC for footpath improvements between Toft and Comberton had not yet been agreed.

8.7 Lot Meadow

There had been a couple of working party sessions clearing the area and the ditch.

8.8 Proposal for a covered bin to replace the existing bin opposite the Church

RESOLVED to forward links to suitable bins to Cllr Harrison to look into and provide a report and recommendation to the next meeting when this will be an agenda item.

8.9 VE day 80th Anniversary Celebration

Cllr Yeadon provided an update on the plans for the celebration. Residents had been in favour of lighting and refreshments.

RESOLVED that Cllr Miles should approach the cafe organisers to see if the cafe can be opened on Thursday 8 May.

8.10 Pump at the allotments

Cllr Tebbit confirmed that the pump was working, but it was necessary to pour some water from an adjacent container into the hole and start pumping with the water to make the pump operate.

RESOLVED that Cllr Tebbit should check whether the allotment holders had been told how the pump works. It was suggested that a notice could be put up.

9. Closure of meeting

There was no further business and the meeting closed at 8.18 pm.

SignedChairmandate.